## Message Text

## UNCLASSIFIED

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R 081756Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6839

**UNCLAS PARIS 22980** 

PASS TREASURY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAITIN AND FEDERAL RESERVE FOR CHAIRMAN BURNS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, SOPN SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF AUGUST 6 MEETING

THE FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN FIARLY COMPLETE BUT RELATIVELY MUTED COVERAGE, BOTH TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WITTEVEEN FACILITY AND TO THE COMMENTS OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND FINANCE MINISTER APEL AFTER THE MEETING. ONLY AGEFI, THE FINANCIAL DAILY, PROVIDES FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE AND IT ALONE GIVES GREATER EMPHASIS TO THE APEL-BLUMENTHAL COMMENTS ON THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR A STRONG DOLLAR THAN TO THE NEW IMF FACILITY. LE FIGARO AND LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS STRESS THE LATTER NEWS, PROVIDING STRAIGHT PLAY AS TO THE PURPOSES OF THE WITTEVEEN FACILITY; THEY ALSO MENTION THE APEL-BLUMENTHAL "ACCORD ON A STRONG U.S. CURRENCY." LE MONDE, WHILE REPORTING STRAIGHT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WITTEVEEN FACILITY, GIVES SEPARATE COVERAGE TO THE U.S.-GERMAN STATEMENTS AND IS THE ONLY MAJOR DAILY TO INTERPRET SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S REMARKS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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REVERSING HIS PREVIOUS POSITION, WHICH IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN IN FAVOR OF A DEPRECIATING DOLLAR. THE PRO-LEFT LE MATIN GIVES RATHER FULL COVERAGE, STRESSING THE AGREEMENT REACHED ON BOTH FRONTS, BUT EDITORIALIZING THAT THE DOLLAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM NEVERTHELESS REMAIN IN DISARRAY.

THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE PROVIDES FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE ON THE IMF FACILITY, PICKING UP THE PAUL LEWIS STORY FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BUT GAVE NO ATTENTION AT ALL TO THE BLUMENTHAL-APEL COMMENTS ON THE DOLLAR. HARTMAN

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Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF AUGUST 6 MEETING THE FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN FIARLY COMPLETE BUT RELATIVELY MUTED

TAGS: EFIN, SOPN, US, GE, FR, (BLUMENTHAL, W MICHAEL), (APEL, HANS)

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